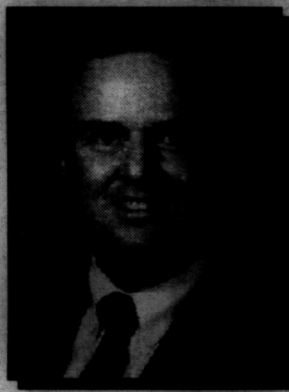
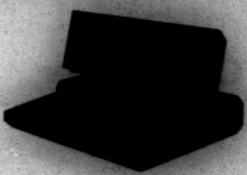


the 1999-2000 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date receipts totaled \$8,075,006.20, or \$8,287,934.70 above the budgeted \$776,938.51.

Estimated receipts for May, \$2,261,122.09, received compared to May 1999, a total of \$2,236,122.07, an increase of 1.4% or more, 9%. Designating statistics for the year were reported for 2001 as 42% compared to the same period last year against \$9,000,110.00, an increase of 10% or more, 70% or more. Since the cooperative program to increase the optimum in the business units, the cooperative and powers has distribution according to the 1999-2000 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Surprise, surprise, surprise

Pollster George Barna has just released the results of his latest survey on American religious culture, and the conclusion he was able to draw surely won't come as a surprise to many Baptist women: men don't do their part when it comes to the work of the church.

According to a recent article by Bob Allen on the Associated Baptist Press news service, Barna found that women are more active in 12 of 13 areas of religious participation. In the only area of the study where women did not handily surpass men, they were in a virtual tie with men. The survey indicated women are:

- ♦ twice as likely to be involved in discipleship.
- ♦ 57% more likely to attend adult Sunday School.
- ♦ 56% more likely to hold a leadership position at church.
- ♦ 33% more likely to volunteer on behalf of a church.
- ♦ 29% more likely to read their Bibles, attend church, and share their faith with others.
- ♦ 16% more likely to pray.

As a matter of fact, Barna reports that while women comprise half of the U.S. population, there would be 60% fewer Christians without them.

"Women, more often than not, take the lead role in the spiritual life of the family. Women typically emerge as the primary — or only — spiritual mentor and role model for family members," he said.

Barna alleges that the tremendous burdens borne by Christian women betray an "apparent lack of spiritual leadership exhibited by millions of Christian men," and has led many women to burn out from too much involvement.

To prove his point, Barna points to statistics that indicate a 22% drop in women's church attendance and a 21% drop in women who are willing to volunteer for church work — both in only the last nine years.

"Churches need to consider whether or not they are providing sufficient opportunities for women to receive ministry and not just provide ministry to others," Barna warned, or we may just see the dropout rate among women continue to pick up

speed.

How appalling. One of the most unambiguous subjects covered in the Bible is the leadership role God expects Christian men to assume in their churches, their families, and their culture.

Yet, all across our denomination — and certainly in Mississippi — churches large and small exist where women find themselves forced to fill the leadership roles God rightly expects Christian men to fill.

Where have all the men gone? Barna believes the problem has come about in part because men in modern America tend to be more focused on career attainments and financial independence than on spiritual matters.

Of course it's important for men to dedicate themselves to providing the best possible lifestyle for their families, but for many men — many Christian men — the all-consuming desire to get ahead has overwhelmed their sense of spiritual priorities.

We can blame that attitude on our materialistic culture, but the fault lies solely with each one of us as individuals.

Why is your wife teaching youth Sunday School while you slip in few extra hours at the office to get ahead for the coming week?

Why should another dad be the one who takes your son to Royal Ambassadors camp, just so you can get in a couple of rounds of golf with a big shot client?

Why are your wife and children travers-

"TODAY THE LESSON
IS ABOUT SACRIFICE."



ing potentially dangerous roadways all by themselves on Sunday evening while you sit comfortably at home catching the end of the ball game?

Our churches and our families are too important to the Father to be treated so casually by those of us from whom so much is justifiably expected.

It doesn't matter if we think the burden too heavy or our time too constrained; when we men became Christians of our own free will, we accepted the responsibilities that come with the faith.

God has exquisite roles planned for each of his Kingdom workers, and the roles he has laid out for Christian men have never been more important to the future of Christianity than right now. Let's get busy filling each of those roles with determination.

Now, there's the way to *really* surprise Baptist women!

GUEST OPINION



A plea for the souls of our children

By Farris Smith, director of missions
Simpson Association, Mendenhall

of our troubled children. Prayer? Yes, but not administered by the school. Someone must teach the child about the God to whom we pray. Someone must prevent the heart of our children from being stolen by the cruelty of sin and robbed of its tenderness. It will take more than the prayer heard in the schools. It will take the prayers of the home and the prayers of the church to change what is happening to our children.

What happens at school is not the problem! What happens before school and after school is the problem!

Before there was an absence of prayer in the school, there was an absence of prayer in the community; before there was an absence of prayer in the community, there was an absence of prayer in the home; and before there was an absence of prayer in the home, there was an absence of prayer in the parents.

If I understand Scripture, every child, regardless of where they are born or the conditions in which they are born, is born in the unique image and with the spiritual awareness of God. God-likeness is innate within the nature. It is birthright, but

in our fallen world the tendency toward that higher and nobler nature is being destroyed even before the child can make a choice to do right.

Call it what you will — culturalism, secularism, liberalism, postmodernism — the souls and the minds of our children are being destroyed even before they have a chance to choose between right and wrong.

Somehow, someday, somebody must stop this madness now! It is not about guns! It is not about schools! It is about our children and their precious souls. It is about a man who loves them and told us, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them." Somehow, someday, somebody must not let the hearts of our children be killed before they have a chance to know him.

Parents, are you listening? Legislators, are you listening? Educators, are you listening? Churches, are you listening? Is anybody listening?

Search for meaning leading Tajiks to Jesus

BUKHARA, Uzbekistan (BP) — "Shavkat" (SHAV kot) sits on the floor in his house in the historic city of Bukhara, Uzbekistan. As he reaches into the communal bowl for another piece of lamb, he glances at the four foreigners who are his guests for dinner tonight.

"Eat more," Shavkat says insistently in his native Tajik language. The meal, served on a tablecloth as the family and guests recline on cushions, consists of Tajik salad, various vegetables, and a young lamb, purchased and prepared especially for this occasion. Tajiks, known throughout Central Asia for their hospitality, shower visitors with food.

At the end of the meal, Shavkat announces that it's time for a blessing. Everyone cups his hands.

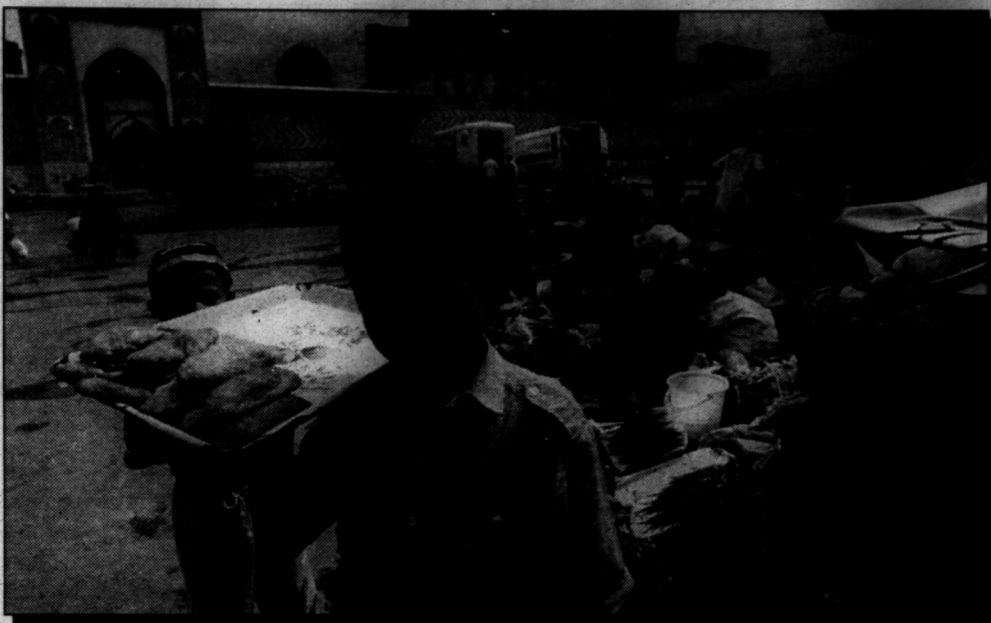
After the short blessing, Shavkat makes a motion like he is washing his face.

Shavkat is among the 10 million Tajiks living in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and China. They are the oldest people group in Central Asia, with roots stretching back to the fourth century, when the Persian Empire extended to the Oxus (now Amu Dar'ya) River. Tajiks are descendants of those Persians and the cousins of modern Iranians.

After the Soviet Union crumbled in the 1990's, Shavkat and many of his Tajik friends began a spiritual quest to find meaning, after years of being told there was no God. Shavkat turned to Islam, the traditional religion of the Tajik people.

Now Shavkat lives as a faithful Muslim. He tries ardently to keep the five pillars of Islam and insists that Muslims and Christians worship the same god, but he doesn't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

For Shavkat and his fellow Tajiks, the choice of Islam is one of convenience, not of con-



FREE TO LEARN — For generations, young Tajiks in the Soviet republics were denied religious instruction. Today's children, like these boys selling potato turnovers in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, are again free to learn about religion. But for Tajiks, that religion is Islam. There's only one Christian for every 50,000 Tajiks in Central Asia. (BP photo)

science. It's the easiest way they know of affirming their cultural identity and trying to fill their spiritual longing.

Twenty years ago, religion was one of the most important targets of the Soviet Union's cultural attack on the region. Soviet leaders infused atheism, the state religion, into the educational system and, therefore, into the country as a whole.

The Russian government also forced the Cyrillic alphabet upon Tajiks in an attempt to assimilate them — and the rest of Central Asia — into Soviet ways.

That assimilation backfired after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Tajiks are rediscovering their roots. "It's better now than before independence," says "Ravshan," a professor at an Islamic university in Tajikistan. "We are returning to our traditional culture and wearing our traditional clothes again. The Russian regime brought their culture and imposed it, but now we are free."

The new spiritual awakening among the Tajiks has done more than just bring people

back to Islam. It's turned some of them to Christ.

Twenty years ago, the number of ethnic Tajik believers could be counted on one hand. Now more than 500 Tajiks know Jesus as their personal Savior, but that's still only one Christian for every 50,000 Tajiks throughout Central Asia.

"Gulnoza," a housewife in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, came to

Christ through one of those dreams. One night she dreamed that a man with a long beard and long white robe handed her a rose. At first, she was embarrassed about the dream. She had no idea what it meant.

Later a Christian neighbor explained to her how God had been reaching out to her with his love. Gulnoza realized it was Jesus in the dream trying to save her. Several weeks later she committed her life to Christ.

"Before I had so many books [about God], and I read them," Gulnoza says, "but I didn't understand about God. Now I feel closer to God. When I opened my heart, Jesus came into it, and I became a child of God."

Gulnoza's search is over. Finally, in a country devastated by a decade of war, Gulnoza has found peace. Many other Tajiks — like Shavkat — are still searching.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record THE BAPTIST

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SEEKING IN VAIN — A spiritual awakening among the Tajiks has brought many to Islam, such as these men inside a mosque in Bukhara, Uzbekistan — but it's turned some to Christ. Now more than 500 Tajiks know Jesus as personal Savior. (BP photo)

Looking back

10 years ago

A crowd of over 500 students, parents, and friends are on hand to see 67 student summer missionaries commissioned at Gulfshore Assembly during the annual Leadership Training Conference. They also hear MBCB executive director-treasurer Bill Causey and church planter Dottie Williamson.

20 years ago

The maintenance building at Mississippi College will become the Laney M. Lanier Physical Plant Building, following trustee action to name the building in honor of the school's former business manager and longtime Clinton community leader.

50 years ago

Causeyville Church sees seven additions in a youth revival led by Clarke College students. Six of the additions were professions of faith. Students leading the effort were Jewel Sanderson, Connie Miller, James Dennam, and Mary Ann Hatten. O.P. Moore is pastor.

Hunger fund on upswing

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Giving to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund finished last year on an upswing, reported Steve Nelson, director of hunger concerns for the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. Receipts for hunger and relief in 1999 increased 2.8% over the previous year, Nelson said. "God is working in marvelous ways to prompt Southern Baptists to give selflessly for the Southern Baptist-directed hunger and relief ministries," he said. Hunger fund receipts for 1999 were the second highest in SBC history; at \$10,732,302. Nelson said the goal for 2000 is \$12.2 million dollars. "Hunger ministry opens countless doors for sharing the Good News of eternal life through Jesus Christ with those in need physically and spiritually," Nelson said. "The increased giving reveals that more and more Southern Baptists are gaining a passion for compassion regarding those who are less fortunate and hurting."

Gifts to the SBC's World Hunger Fund are used exclusively for ministry within North America and around the world, Nelson explained, noting that nothing is taken from the fund's proceeds for promotion or administration. Missionaries and churches already in the field utilize the funds. He noted that when giving drops, hunger and relief resources are not available and the opportunity to reach persons in need can be lost.

With help from the World Hunger Fund last year, more than 10,000 professions of faith in the United States alone were recorded that could be tied directly to hunger ministries.



Celebrate Easter Sunday, April 23

Call to prayer made for MC budget crunch

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Two Mississippi College (MC) students issued a call for prayer in the midst of a budget crisis that has resulted in a number of staff reductions and a harsh response by MC student government representatives.

Around 55 students, faculty, and staff gathered on the Clinton campus' quad area Monday afternoon to pray for their school. The call to prayer came as a response by two students to events that have occurred since the announcement in January of a \$3 million budget shortfall.

The shortfall has resulted in departmental cutbacks of around 10% and the loss of over a dozen jobs at the Clinton-based university. Staff reductions included the resignation of dean of students Tom Washburn, a 19-year employee, and the elimination of

positions held by Patty Welch, director of public relations, and Bill Townsend, assistant dean for professional services at the MC School of Law in downtown Jackson.

"These (additional lay-offs) were planned as part of the overall effort to bring our operating budget in line," said MC president Howell Todd. "It was announced a few weeks ago.

"Any time you have action that adversely affects people, it causes great pain. Administrators never want to take these kinds of actions, but we need to be able to live within our budget," he said.

In response to the crisis, at an April 10 joint session of the MC student Senate and House of Representatives, a resolution of no confidence in the administration was passed by a vote of 23-22.

The emotionally-charged debate prompted two MC students to issue a call to prayer. Wesley Quick, a sophomore from Collins, and Melanie Massad, a junior from Clinton, called for prayer college student joins in a special call to prayer April 17 for the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton. (Photo by Carl M. White)



IN TOUCH WITH THE FATHER — An unidentified Mississippi college student joins in a special call to prayer April 17 for the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton. (Photo by Carl M. White)



GATHERED FOR PRAYER — Wesley Quick (holding Bible), a sophomore from Collins, begins the call to prayer on April 17 at Mississippi College. Around 55 students, faculty members, and administrative staff joined Quick, including Christian studies professor Harold Bryson (left). (Photo by Carl M. White)

"We decided that this would be a good step in the right direction, to bring unity back to the campus. We talked to Christy Carley (Baptist Student Union director at the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton) and she encouraged us.

"We sent an e-mail and a voice mail message to all the campus phones announcing the call to prayer. I know it

was short notice, but we didn't have much time," Quick said.

"We hoped faculty, administration, and students would all come together for one cause — to pray for one another and for MC," he pointed out.

"I have a great deal of respect for Wesley Quick and I admire him for his sensitivity," Todd said.

"This institution is steeped in its dependence on prayer and its dependence on the prayers of people who love the Lord," Todd observed.

In response to the vote of no confidence, Todd expressed appreciation for the student body leadership and indicated his understanding of their feelings of frustration in the midst of this crisis.

"I understand that Tom Washburn was close to a number of our students at MC, and that they are upset with his leaving the institution.

"I would like add that decisions such as this are not made lightly or without a great deal of thought and prayer," he said.

"Anytime you have a segment of the campus that expresses concern, it is of concern to the administration. Obviously, there are some things that we can do better, and I look forward to having those students who voted in support of that motion to regain their confidence in the administration as we move forward," he stressed.

"I know that there are things I may not understand in God's design of the plan for our lives, but I am also mindful that Rom. 8:28 is as true today as it was when it was revealed to Paul," Todd pointed out.

Hedermans fund MC business scholarships

CLINTON, Miss. (Special) — A family known as long-time supporters of Mississippi College (MC) has established a \$1,000,000 scholarship endowment for students in the School of Business at the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton.



MC SCHOLARSHIPS — Henry Hederman (seated, left), his wife Martha (seated, right), their son Hap (standing), and daughter Gail Hederman Wallace (not pictured) have established the Henry and Martha Hederman Scholarship Fund at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton. The fund is earmarked for eight scholarships in the School of Business. (BR special photo)

Henry and Martha Hederman, and their children Hap and Gail Hederman Wallace, have established the Henry and Martha Hederman Scholarship Fund for outstanding undergraduates in the School of Business. The Hedermans' intent is that the endowment would fund two scholars per year beginning in the fall of 2000 and build to a total of eight scholarships over a four-year period.

This approach would make the Hederman Scholars one of the most prestigious scholarship awards at the school.

"MC has been such a vital part of my life by being an alumnus as well as a trustee, and Martha and I wanted to give back to the university in order to provide support for these outstanding young men and women," said Henry Hederman.

"I can think of no alumni nor supporters of MC whose loyalty and friendship to the institution exceed that of Henry and Martha Hederman," said MC president Howell W. Todd. "They were supporters long before I came to MC, and I have found them to be dedicated to the academic excellence for which MC is well known.

Lloyd Roberts, dean of the MC School of Business, said he was certainly grateful for the Hedermans' generosity.

"Henry Hederman has always challenged me as a dean to be in search of ways of growing the School of Business not only in enrollment but in quality, and this endowment will assist us in continuing to attract terrific students as entering freshmen," said Roberts.

Media workshop set May 5-6 in Madison

Mississippi Baptists involved in broadcasting on radio, television, or cable — and those who are interested in getting started — are invited to the Witnessing Through Media Workshop sponsored by Mississippi Baptists In Broadcasting (MBIB), May 5-6 at Ridgecrest Church, Madison.

Cost of registration for Friday and Saturday, which includes three meals and conference materials, is \$25. For churches who bring four or more persons for Friday and Saturday, cost is \$20 per person. For those attending Friday only or Saturday only, the cost is \$15 per person.

Advance registration must be made by April 25. Mail registration fees and information to Farrell Blankenship, MBIB, P. O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530. Checks should be made payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The evening of May 5 will kick off the workshop with an awards banquet at 7 p.m. Radio disc jockey J.J. Jasper will be the awards banquet speaker/entertainer. Jasper is with the American Family Radio in Tupelo.

Awards in radio and television to be presented at the banquet will be in the areas of Best Program for Missions/Evangelism; Church Musicals and Community Service; Best Spot; and Best First Time Entry. Judges will also present one overall award for Creative Use of Radio or Television. A special audio/video feature of the programs submitted by the awards winners will be presented by the MBIB Judging Committee.

May 6 will feature many helpful workshops with outstanding conference leaders and equipment displays by vendors from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. A continental breakfast will be served by the church at 8 a.m. and the equipment vendors will be available to talk with each person.

The workshops will get underway at

9:30 a.m. on May 6. Workshops will feature "Nuts and Bolts of Camera Operation," led by Don Moore.

That afternoon Don Moore and Don Warren will be teaching "Creative

church audio production and broadcasting. He is vice-president of the Information Technology Division with AMSouth Bank in Jackson.

"Getting Started in Media," led by Chip Turner, will help participants look at using media to meet the needs of today's church. Turner is director of marketing and distribution for the NAMB Broadcast Communications Group.

The workshop "Internet: Spinning a Spiritual Web" will be led by Wes Pegues, ministry computer consultant at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in Jackson. The workshop will address such topics as getting on-line, surfing the World Wide Web, and publishing a home page.

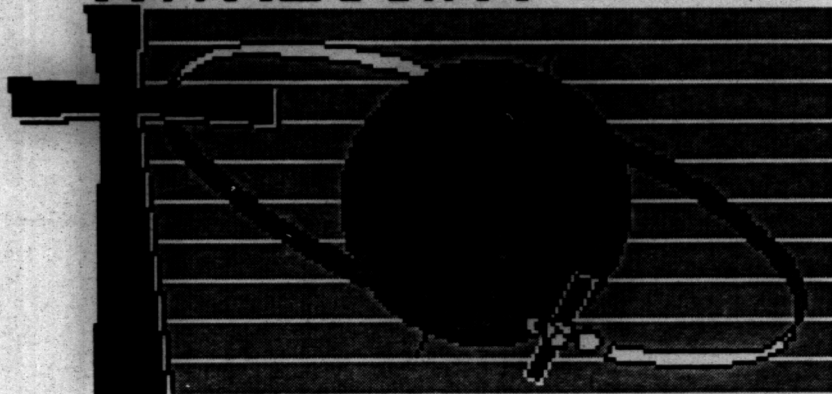
There will be two brand new workshops this year. One new workshop is "Scriptwriting" led by Tim Nicholas, MBCB staff writer. Scriptwriting will give participants guidelines for writing a spot, promotion, or presentation for church programs.

The second new workshop is "How Did They Do That?" led by Don Moore and Don Warren. This mini-workshop will share examples and explanations of how ideas are produced. VHS-format samples will be welcome at this workshop.

The MBIB planning committee members working with Blankenship, who serves as MBCB director of broadcast services, are Wayne Pierce, Hattiesburg; George Van Horn, Ken Sims, Rusty Holcomb, and Judy Chen, all of Jackson; Merle Guyton, Tupelo; Ian Richardson, Cleveland; and Maurice Kelly, Greenville.

For more information contact Blankenship at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3378 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: fblankenship@mbcb.org

WITNESSING



THROUGH MEDIA

Production." This workshop deals with productions such as spots, outreach videos, VBS promotion, and other productions outside the worship service. Don Moore is the operations manager at WLOX-TV in Biloxi, and Don Warren is owner of Warren Film and Video, a Jackson-based production firm.

The "How Shall They Hear?" workshop, led by Stan Grubb, will explore illustrations on how local churches can use various forms of media to reach their communities for Christ. Grubb is affiliate relations associate and church media consultant at the Broadcast Communications Group of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Fort Worth.

Another popular workshop, "Sound Advice" led by Tony Brooks, will give participants audio tips and audio production techniques for the sound operator. Brooks is a layman at First Church, Jackson, where he is actively involved in

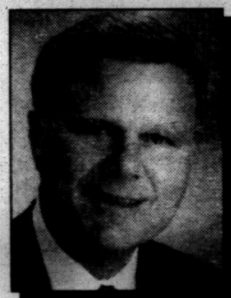
CP

If you hang around Mississippi Baptists very much you have to learn what those two letters mean. We reduce everything to a few letters. We have SS, DT (formerly CT), formerly TU, formerly BYPU, and our seminaries award degrees like M.Div. MM, MRE, D.Min., and Ph.D. Our Baptist colleges here in Mississippi are BMC, MC, and WCC.

Our work extends beyond Mississippi to the Southern Baptist Convention, or SBC, where we are involved with such organizations as the IMB (International Mission Board, formerly the FMB), and NAMB (North American Mission Board, formerly HMB). Unless you know the meaning behind the letters you may feel like you are in a FOG.

Today, I want to talk to you about CP. In Baptist life CP represents Cooperative Program. This next year is the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program. In 1925 at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Memphis, Baptists entered into a mission funding relationship that has been unusually blessed of God and has certainly blessed the world.

The "C" in CP stands for



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Cooperative. Sometimes Baptists do not cooperate. In fact, sometimes we disagree and do not get along, but when it comes to missions — to sharing Jesus Christ with the world — Baptists agree and find themselves putting other things aside so that we can get the Gospel to a needy world.

The "P" in CP stands for **Program**. While at the time, 75 years ago, it may have been envisioned to be a program that would allow churches to give, it was then and now much, much more than a program.

Let me try to define CP for you in some other ways.

◆ CP can stand for "Channeled Power." You see, what Cooperative Program allows us to do is join together in a strong and concerted effort to make a difference.

Have you ever had the opportunity to see a hydroelectric plant

where water has been channeled into a small area to flow over a dam? It's an awesome sight! That same water, just spread out over the landscape, could be a swamp, but harnessed and channeled into a specific place, it becomes the source of great strengths and blessings.

◆ CP can stand for "Choice Partnerships." CP enables us to meet needs, but much more it enables us to join with others in mission partnerships. What one, two, three, or a dozen churches cannot do by themselves, they can do together. It is as though God has allowed Mississippi churches, whether located in the rural countryside or mid-city, to be linked together to do what the Lord has called us to do.

◆ CP can mean "Christ-like Personnel." Cooperative Program has a living, loving, human face to it and that face

is the hundreds and thousands of missionaries who are on the cutting edge of the darkness of this world bringing the light of Jesus. They could not be there if it were not for you and the vehicle of support provided by CP.

◆ CP can mean "Challenging Possibilities." While we will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of great achievements through the Cooperative Program, God has even greater things in store for us. The possibilities are enormous and they are challenging.

Henry Blackaby has challenged a generation of Christians, through his work on **Experiencing God** to find where God is working and join with him. Sometimes, in our big, big work and world, we are unable to see everywhere that God is working — in all the places and all the people groups where God is loving — but still, through this special channel, we can be a part of today's and tomorrow's possibilities.

You and your church cannot do it alone! What needs to be done cannot be done without you! Thank God for the Cooperative Program and for your continued faithfulness as we reach out to the challenging possibilities of tomorrow.

LifeWayonline offers special Internet rate

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — LifeWayonline, a filtered Internet service provider launched Dec. 1, began offering a discounted program for churches, including paid church staff, on April 3.

Begun in partnership with Rated-G Online, an established Internet service provider with the latest-generation filtering system, the service filters out more than 20 categories of offensive material including pornography, alcohol and drug use, gambling, weapons and bomb making, violence, hate/discrimination, profane language, and various chat sites.

The church program includes filtered Internet access for \$15.95 per month, a discounted rate from the full standard price of \$19.95. Church accounts may be opened at info.lifewayonline.com, where a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is posted, or by calling (888) 454-5965.

NAMB takes to Internet to evangelize

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) is helping lead an average of 200 people each month to faith in Christ not by knocking on doors, inviting them to church, or even talking with them on the telephone. They're doing it through the Internet, using interactive websites to share Christ.

NAMB has taken the lead in this area with a number of interactive presentations accessible through www.thegoodnews.org, www.studentz.com and www.kidzplace.org. Recent additions include www.thekristo.com, an interactive presentation for students viewed by 55,508 visitors during its first month in January.

An estimated 500,000 individuals viewed the combined NAMB sites during 1999. An average of 700 each month responded. Each of those responses receives personal follow-up within 24 hours from volunteers working with NAMB, including referrals to churches and other resources.

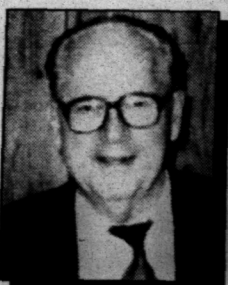
T. Williams dies April 3

Thomas Elijah (T.E.) Williams died on April 3. Funeral services were held April 8 at East Pleasant Grove Church, Quitman, with burial in the Union Church, Meridian, cemetery.

Bro. T. (as he was so well known) attended Clarke College, received his BA degree from Mississippi College, and his master's degree at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He was ordained to the ministry at Union Church, Meridian. His first pastorate was at Gooden Lake Church, Belzoni. He also pastored churches in Mississippi, Kentucky, Florida, and spent many years in full-time evangelism. After retiring from the pastorate, he served as supply, interim, and associate pastor at churches in Mississippi and Alabama. He also made mission trips to Trinidad, Mexico, Venezuela, and South Africa.

Survivors include his wife Virginia Ivey Williams, Quitman; daughter, Ann Carson Williams, Ft. Myers, Fla.; sisters, Margaret Godfrey and Joy Jones; brothers, Johnny Williams, R. M. Williams, and Royce Williams.



Williams

Mississippians touching souls in Kosovo

STARKVILLE, Miss. (Special) — "Why did Christians kill my sons?"

When an Albanian Muslim woman in Kosovo asked this question, John Breazeale of Starkville, and a team of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) mission volunteers did not know what to say. So they answered not with English words the woman couldn't understand, but with actions she could.

The Albanian woman showed the volunteers the bullet holes and bloodstains in her house where her sons had been killed. Then she said she couldn't understand why Orthodox Serbian Christians would destroy her home and kill her sons, and why American Christians would travel so far to help rebuild her home.

"We didn't have a simple, easy answer," said Breazeale, who was part of a CBF volunteer missions team working in partnership with Samaritan's Purse, Franklin Graham's organization.

"Through working on rebuilding her home, the team members saw this woman soften her perception of Christianity and show gratitude for our service," said Breazeale, who is a construction contractor in Starkville. This winter, she had a roof over her head and a warm house because Christians cared and demonstrated the love of Christ by their actions.

Breazeale, a layman from First Church, Starkville, is the son of Albert Breazeale, long-time pastor of Mississippi Baptist churches. Before he retired and moved to North Carolina, John's father was pastor of Shaw Church in Bolivar County, Briar Hill Church in Rankin County, and Bethel Church in Copiah County.

Breazeale said he would like to go back to Kosovo again as a construction volunteer, but the situation there has become much more tense and CBF missionaries are not able

to host construction teams because of security issues. Breazeale said serving as a mission volunteer in Kosovo taught him a lot about attitudes of Muslims toward Christians.

"Most Albanians are as mystified by the

Kosovo last summer and fall for two-week assignments to rebuild roofs and houses before winter for thousands of refugees who returned to burned out and destroyed homes. With the government's

support, the Serbian army and citizens began destroying the Kosovar Albanian society by hitting at its core — the family, said Breazeale.

"We were told that initially, Serbs killed Albanian professors, professionals, and social and political leaders. Then they began killing the men and breaking up families," Bhee said. "The army would go through a city or village and randomly burn Albanian houses and businesses."

"Albanians were very resilient," said Breazeale. "They were working and living in burned out buildings, and they had memories of personal horrors, but they didn't have teams of therapists helping them cope," Breazeale said. "Even through the profound personal tragedies and losses of family members, survivors are attempting to restore their communities to some sense of normalcy."

"Evangelism moves slower in a Muslim world," Breazeale said. "One CBF volunteer described their work as 'incarnation evangelism,' as if Christ was in the flesh reaching out to help," Breazeale said.

With money donated by Christians in Mississippi, Breazeale was able to help purchase one year's worth of school supplies for a first grade-class and contribute to the purchase of a tractor for one of the last surviving males in a village.

"He will be able to use that tractor to help plant everyone's crops. The main problem for him will be knowing where land mines are located. People are still having the misfortune of finding mines left behind by the Serbs," he said.

Breazeale said he felt privileged to be part of an effort by CBF to help Muslim Albanians better understand God's love. "It might not be much, but it was a small step in a long journey toward peace and understanding," he said.



KOSOVO MEMORIES — John Breazeale (left) of Starkville, shares some pictures from his volunteer mission trip to Kosovo last fall with Rick Shaw, a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) career missionary to the Albanian people. Shaw and his wife Martha, a Mississippi native, are based in Macedonia. While on home assignment studying missiology in Kentucky, Shaw discussed CBF work in the Baltic region with several groups in Mississippi including a group in Starkville. (BR special photo by Linda Breazeale)

Christians who come to help them rebuild as they were by those who came to destroy," said Breazeale.

He observed that Christian aid workers and Baptist missionaries have their job cut out for them as they try to communicate Christ's love to mostly-Muslim Albanians whose society was torn apart by mostly-Eastern Orthodox Serbs in what Breazeale called an "uncivil war."

Although Albanians are predominantly Muslim, they are traditionally as devout as those who are hard-to-reach in the Middle East. "Most Albanians are probably Muslims to the same extent Serbs are Christians," Breazeale explained.

Since they could not speak the language, Breazeale and other teams of construction volunteers working to rebuild homes destroyed by the war tried to communicate the love of Christ through their actions.

Similar construction teams went to

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 20, 2000

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

Preaching and Worship Conference

May 8-9, 2000
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

Plenary Session Topics

- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Evangelism
- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Discipleship
- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Ministry
- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Fellowship
- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Worship

SCHEDULE

Monday, May 8

1:00 Registration
1:30 Welcome, Prayer and Housekeeping
1:40 Music
1:45 Session One
2:20 Music
2:30 Session Two
3:00 Break and Fellowship
3:30 Session Three
4:00 Transition to groups
4:05 Break-Out Groups I
5:00 Dinner on your own
6:30 Break-Out Groups II
7:30 Music
7:45 Session Four
8:15 Music
8:20 Session Five
9:00 Adjourn

Tuesday, May 9

8:30 Worship Experience
9:15 Session Six
10:00 Break
10:30 Breakout Groups III
11:35 Lunch at the Church (compliments CAPM)
Dialogue with Conference Leaders
1:05 Break-Out Groups IV
2:10 Transition
2:15 Music
2:25 Session Seven
3:00 Music
3:05 Session Eight
3:35 Adjourn... have a safe trip home!

Registration Form

Preaching and Worship Conference
May 8-9, 2000 • Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Church _____ Association _____
Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Mail to: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Fax to: 601-714-7426 E-mail to: kgordon@mbcb.org

Please pre-register by May 1, 2000, so that adequate materials can be provided.

For additional information, contact Keith Gordon at 601-292-3307.

2000 Growing Churches Conference Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

July 27-29

Includes:

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TeamKID Clubs
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Family Time
Fellowship Time
Lots more!

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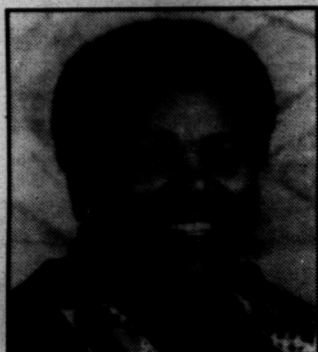
Paid In Full

For reservation information,
contact Frank Simmons, manager
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
100 First Street
Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299
Telephone: (228) 452-7261
Fax: (228) 452-7263

NOTE: MasterCard and Visa can be used
for reservations and payment of bill.

Please call the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department for
more info: (601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

Family Fun Ecumenical Festival



Gwen Williams
"Ms. Chocolate"
New Orleans

SINGLE ADULT FELLOWSHIP

First Baptist Church, Greenwood

Thursday, April 27

7:00 p.m.

Refreshments

7:30

Music

Gwen Williams - humor, motivation and inspiration

(Call 1-662-453-3075 for directions or additional information)

SENIOR ADULT RALLY

Leflore County Civic Center

Friday, April 28

8:30 a.m.

Registration

9

Music - Shows Family

Welcome and Prayer - Bob Hatzfeld

Gwen Williams

10

Break

10:30

Door Prize - Hal Fisher and Jane Newell

Devotion and Prayer - Calvin Collins

Dennis Lee

Prayer - Barry Worrell

11:45

Hot meal provided by Men's Ministry,

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

4 - 6 p.m.

YOUTH/CHILDREN RALLY

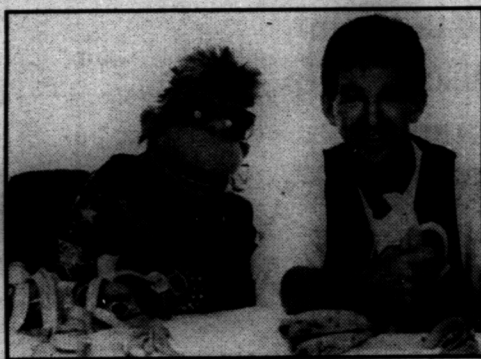
Glass Band and Dennis Lee

7

WORSHIP RALLY

Music: Gerald and Cindy Simmons and local choirs

Speakers: Sonny Adkins and Ken Weathersby



Dennis Lee
Ventriloquist
Garland, Texas

WORSHIP RALLY

Leflore County Civic Center

Saturday, April 29

9 - 11 a.m.

Financial Planning Seminar

1 - 3 p.m.

9 - 3

Health Clinic

sugar test, BP/pulse,

breast lumps,

eye screening, etc.

4 - 6

The Fishermen's Story

N. Carrollton BC

Drama Team

7

Worship Rally

Music:

Gerald & Cindy Simmons

Leflore Co. Mass Choir

Speakers:

Ken Weathersby

Jim Putral

Greenwood High School Gym

9 a.m. - 12

Sports Clinic

1 - 4 p.m.

Coaches:

Jason Conner

Bernadette McDonald

local coaches

Sponsored by the Leflore Association, First Baptist Church, Greenwood and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.
Please call the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department for more info: (601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

WHO: All WMU
Associational
Leadership
Teams

WHAT: WMU
Associational
Leadership
Training

WHEN: May 19-20

WHERE: Camp Garaywa
Clinton

THEME: *Beyond Belief!*

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Association _____

Housing Place (includes 3 meals)

_____ Patterson House

Single: \$51.50 per person

Double: \$46.50 per person

Triple: \$41.50 per person

Quad: \$36.50 per person

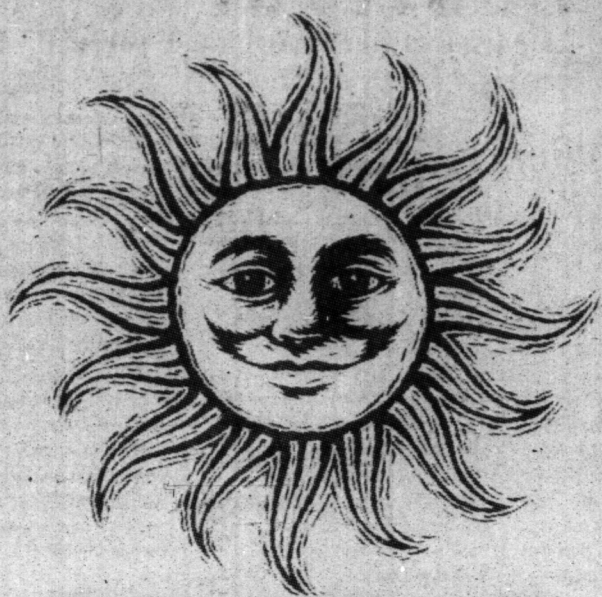
_____ Guest House

\$28.50 per person

No. Attending _____ x Housing Cost _____ = _____ (Total Cost)
(listed above)

Please attach the names of your team members and their responsibilities with this form.

Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB)
Send to: WMU - ALT, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.
For additional information, contact WMU at 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.



Orlando Bound!

National WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Conference

Orlando, Fla.

June 9-13, 2000

Lodging will be at the **Wyndham Orlando Resort**. Saturday, June 10, you will be free to enjoy local Orlando attractions **ON YOUR OWN**. The WMU Annual Meeting begins on Sunday, June 11.

Training will be offered at an **ADDITIONAL COST OF \$35** per person. Participants **MUST** register for training to get the \$35 cost. Those registering at the door will pay \$55.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MAY 16, 2000.
Cost per person (includes transportation and lodging)
(Please make sure you contact the person(s) you wish to
room with *before* you list their names.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please check occupancy desired:

Single \$480

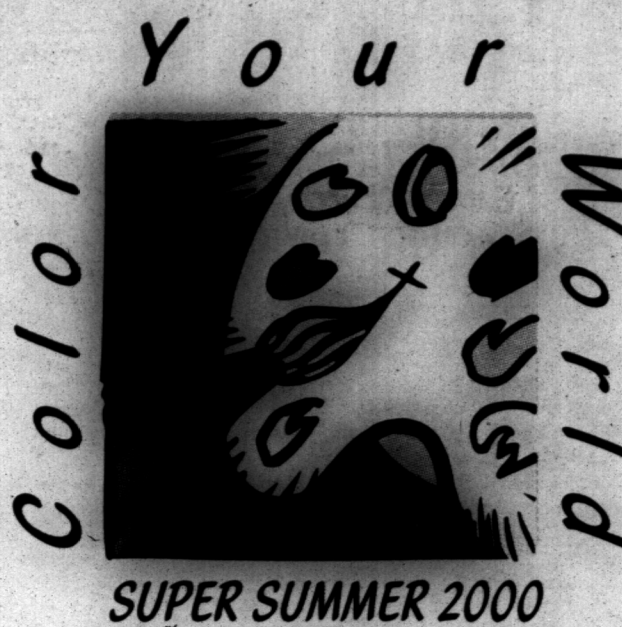
Double \$300 Roomate: _____

Triple \$240 Roomates: _____

Quad \$210 Roomates: _____

Total for lodging cost
(see above prices) \$ _____
plus training (optional) +35.00
Total enclosed \$ _____

Please send check to WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
Contact the WMU for more info: (601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651



Super Summer 2000

with **Greg Matte**
and **Chris Davis**

July 24-28

Mississippi College
& FBC, Clinton

Super Summer Mississippi is for the young person who is a mature and responsible Christian leader. Super Summer will not be for your entire group. Mississippi College and FBC, Clinton, are the hosts for Super Summer, July 24-28. Young people attending Super Summer Mississippi spend approximately 20 hours in evangelism and discipleship training. Quality youth leaders from our state lead our youth in study. Youth are trained in how to share their faith, how to have a quiet time, how to memorize scripture, how to find God's will for their lives, and more. They are also challenged and equipped to utilize their talents to penetrate their culture for Christ in a creative and effective way. Throughout Super Summer young people are encouraged to use the freedom they have in Christ to change the world.

Don't miss out on an opportunity to be a part of Super Summer 2000!

Financial Requirements

The total cost for Super Summer during the registration period is \$150 per student and adult; amount includes food, housing in the school dormitory, materials, and T-shirt.

Guidelines for all SS candidates

1. Demonstrates leadership qualities and is a growing Christian.
2. Faithful involvement in worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night youth activities.
3. Complete at least one level of a discipleship study (i.e., Survival Kit, DiscipleYouth, DiscipleNow...).
4. Memorized a minimum of 10 scripture verses relating to discipleship, evangelism, or a disciple study.
5. Share their personal testimony with the youth group.
6. Share the Gospel with at least one person this year.
7. Completed at least the 8th grade in 1999, but not yet in college.
8. Agree to attend all SS sessions.
9. Second year students: Express in 100 words or less your level of commitment to Christ and how you are involved in leadership in your church.
10. First year students: You must be involved in a "small group" study or accountability group prior to Super Summer.

REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 17. The cost for adults and students who register before May 15 is \$150. If they register between May 16 and June 15, the cost is \$160. After June 15, the cost is \$175.

Name _____

Church _____

Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ e-mail _____

State/Zip _____ fax _____

Please send a registration packet.

Return this form to: **Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept.**
Miss. Baptist Convention Board
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Call the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department for more info: 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

Pray this day for...

April 21 - May 4, 2000

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

What I've Learned Through the years - I've learned that I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

Author Unknown

Easter - Pray that those who attend church only on Easter will receive a special blessing and will decide to attend every Sunday. Many new believers prefer to be baptized on Easter. Pray that baptismal services will be powerful testimonies to all who observe them.

Life Commitment Sunday (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries), (any day in May) Special Day Missions Promotion (WMU Emphasis), Pray for those ministering in southern Uganda as they relate to families and friends of those killed in a mass murder in a church.

Pray for missionary Mike Jones as he leads a small group of French believers in Thionville, France, to start prayerwalks in their area. Ask God to truly open the eyes of believers in this community and give them His vision for their city.

For (1) Baptist Building Staff Planning Week, (2) Please pray today for President Joseph Estrada of the Philippines.

For (1) Area Senior Choir Festival, FBC, Brandon (Church Music), (2) Van Welton of Roanoke Rapids, N.C., is a First Priority worker. He works with evangelism clubs in public schools. These clubs are spreading across North Carolina, with close to 200 clubs at this time.

A Little League Baseball Project is planned for June in Indonesia. Two groups of volunteers are planning to go from the U.S. to help with this project. Pray for some Indonesians who have been selected to serve as coaches, that they will also share with the Little League teams the good news that Jesus loves them.

Pray for Ken and Martha Cooper, who are involved in an English-language ministry in Munich, Germany. Pray especially for the newly-organized African Baptist Fellowship. This is a French-speaking group mainly from Togo and the New Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Pray that unity will be restored among members of a minority group in China who have been involved in a Christian-sponsored agricultural project and have now turned against one another. Ask God to intervene in this situation and to win the victory.

For (1) Area Senior Adult Choir Festival, FBC, Columbus (Church Music), (2) Each Thursday a business person's luncheon is held at the Central BC in a major city of Columbia. This is a time of prayer, fellowship and Bible study. Pray that Christians in that area will invite non-Christians to attend.

Pray that workers from all the religious denominations who are serving the North Caucasus (CAW-cultus) (border region between SE Asia and W Asia) will work together to further the Lord's work, and not worry about what each denomination is doing. Pray for peace and harmony among them.

For (1) African American Church Leadership Institute, Mt. Sinai BC, Tupelo (Strategic Initiative Dept.), (2) Vu Nguyen is a Messenger of the Work for the Duggap Baptist Mission in Dalton, Ga. Pray that in this new mission many people will come to accept Christ.

For (1) Family Festival, LeFlore Civic Center, Greenwood (Discipleship and Family Ministry/Equipping Team), (2) Missionary parents Fellowship, Camp Garaywa (WMU), (2) Chaplains Spring Retreat, Gulfshore Assembly (Strategic Initiatives Dept.).

Missionaries Larry and Alicia Braswell serve in Southern Brazil. Larry is leading a clinic in a number of churches to prepare them for a three year partnership with a church in Tenn. The goals are growth of Lages Baptist Church and to plant two new churches in the Lages area. Pray that they can accomplish their goals.

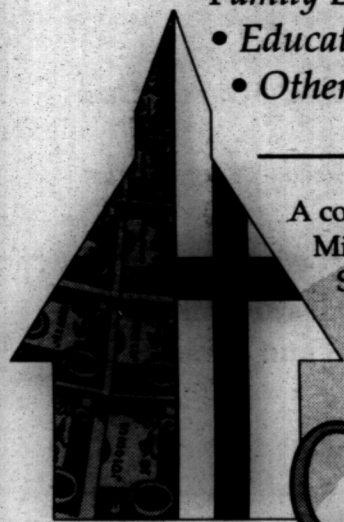
For Mississippi Missionary Fellowship, Camp Garaywa. Jason Carlisle, missionary to Uruguay but presently on special assignment with the IMB to mobilize Hispanic Southern Baptist Churches, will be the speaker (WMU).

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Parents: Dennis & Margaret, Agriculture
SERVE IN EASTERN AFRICA

15-79 MR. JASON HENDRICKS
PO Box 118087, CSU Box 723
Charleston, SC 29423-8087
Parents: Larry & Mary, SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA

18-83 MR. ROSS KYZAR
c/o UECB Russia, International Post Office
P.O. Box 171, Moscow, 101000 RUSSIA
Parents: Russell & Melinda, Strategy

20-81 MISS DONNIS GREEN
SU Box 293231, Birmingham, AL 35229-3231
Parents: Algie & Emily General Evangelism
SERVE IN WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA

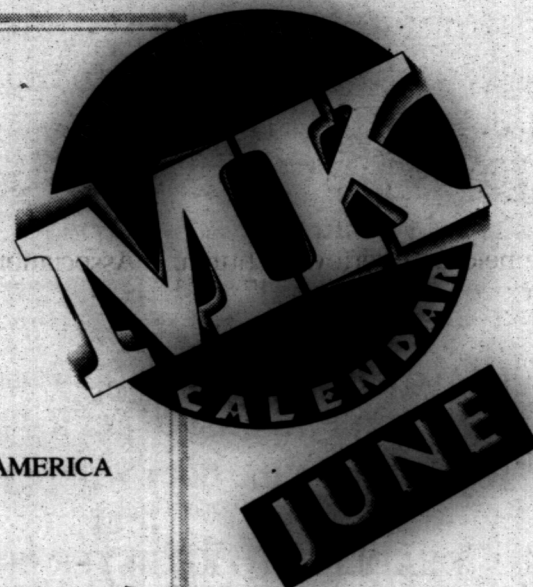
24-97 MR. LUCAS BRASWELL
Caixa Postal 61, 89.802-970 Chapeco, SC, BRAZIL
Parents: Larry & Alicia, General Evangelism

26-89 MR. WRAY BRASWELL
Caixa Postal 61, 89.802-970 Chapeco, SC, BRAZIL
Parents: Larry & Alicia, General Evangelism

28-89 MISS CHARISSA FORTENBERRY
PO Box 228, Lobatse, BOTSWANA
Parents: Robert & Margaret

30-82 MR. KYLE MARTIN
Casilla 2568, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA
Parents: Tom & Cynthia, Strategy

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!



HOUSE TOPS

NAMES IN THE NEWS



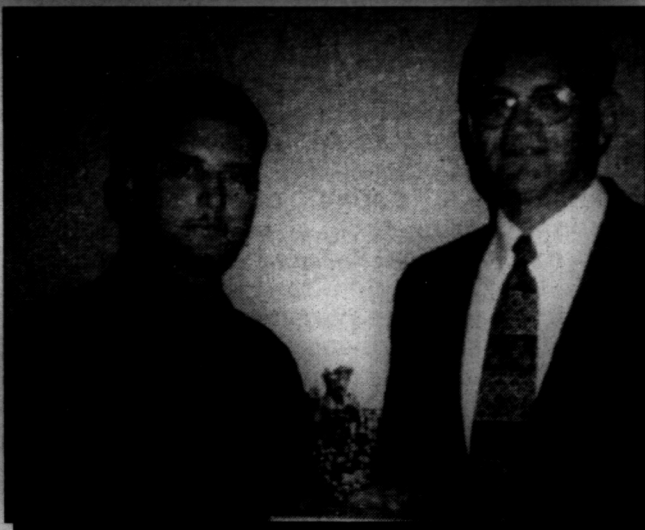
Simmons, Taylor, and Armstrong

Pineview Church, Hattiesburg, recently ordained Wayne Taylor as deacon. Pictured (from left) are Steve Simmons, pastor; Taylor; and David Armstrong, deacon chairman.

Local children gather at Centreville Church, Centreville, each Monday after school for children's choir and handbells. The program provides an environment for children of the community to learn to worship through music. More than 50

children are enrolled in the program, which is considered a very successful part of the church's outreach ministry. The children have two musical performances for the church and community during the year and also present their performances to the residents at the local nursing home. Pictured with Duane Roth, minister of music, are volunteer workers along with the preschool choir (pre-K-kindergarten), Music Makers (1st-3rd graders), and Young Musicians (4th-6th graders).

Joshua Parker (left) was recently ordained to the ministry by Big Level Church, Wiggins. He currently serves as youth minister at Faithview Church, Saucier. Presenting the certificate of ordination is David Perry, pastor of Big Level Church.



Parker and Perry



Children of Centreville Church, Centreville

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Christian Wildlife Seminars were held at Tylertown Church, Tylertown, on March 17 and Clear Branch Church, Brookhaven, on March 18. There were seven professions of faith at Tylertown Church, and four professions of faith at Clear Branch Church. The guest speakers were David Fortenberry and Gene

Hoyt from Outdoor Evangelism Association, Amite, La.

Memorial services will be held at Mashulaville Church, Macon, on May 7 at 11 a.m. Dinner will follow services in fellowship hall. Guest speaker will be Cornell Daughtry.

East End Church, Columbus, held its annual RA Racer Derby on March 24. Twenty-eight contestants raced their cars in a triple-elimination process. The overall winner was Caleb England, first grader. Mike Meggs is RA director.

Youth group of First Church of Edinburg will sponsor a bake sale at Super Wal-Mart in Carthage, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 22. Proceeds will be for a church trip this summer. Billy Henry is pastor.

Osyka Church, Osyka, will celebrate its 130th anniversary on May 21. Activities include registration at 9 a.m., service at 10 a.m., with catered lunch to follow. David Millican, McComb, guest speaker, and Butch Dear, former minister of music, master of ceremonies. Milton Kliesch is pastor. For more information, call (601) 542-5972 or (601) 542-3296.

Flowood Church, Flowood, will sponsor its 4th annual golf tournament on April 29 at the Willow Creek Golf Resort in Brandon. Proceeds will go to the Flowood Church's Brotherhood Association for its annual brotherhood mission construction trip. G. R. Ricky Gray is pastor of Flowood Church. For more information, call the church at (601) 992-6464.

Scott County Association will observe its centennial

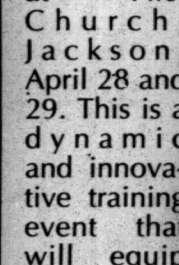
celebration on Sunday, April 30, at Forest Church. The speaker will be Larry Kennedy, president of William Carey College.

First Church, Mount Olive, will celebrate its 100th anniversary on April 30. The service will begin at 10:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon in the fellowship hall. Seven former pastors will participate in the service. Special speaker will be Jack Williamson, pastor in Evergreen, Ala., who grew up in First Church, Mount Olive. Gerald Buckley is pastor. For additional information, call (601) 797-3973 or (601) 797-4628.

Cason Church, Monroe Association, will celebrate its 25th anniversary of the bus ministry and children's church, Sunday, April 30. Sammy McMillen is pastor of Cason Church. For more information, call the church at (662) 256-9687.

First Church, Jackson, hosts seminar

"The 7 Secrets of Effective Fathers" Seminar will be held at First Church, Jackson, April 28 and 29. This is a dynamic and innovative training event that will equip fathers to excel in the vitally important fathering role and equip spouses to help men succeed as a dads.



Canfield

Activities are April 28, 7-9:30 p.m. (for men and spouses); April 29, 7-8:15 a.m. (for divorced and step dads); and 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. (for men only).



Singletery

The speakers are Ken R. Canfield of Kansas City, Kansas, author of *The 7 Secrets of Effective Fathers* (Tyndale, 1992), and Mike Singletery, elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1998, former Chicago Bears middle linebacker.

Advance registration is required before April 24. For more information, call (601) 969-1200 or (800) 593-3237, ext. 11.

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USED CHURCH PEWS. Contact Bethel Baptist Church, 601-587-4661.

ATTENTION: committed couples to work full-time with "at-risk" children in residential setting. Opportunities throughout Alabama. Minimum HS diploma. Benefits include BC/BS PMD, TDA, life insurance, sick leave, vacation, living expenses. Call 1-800-548-4256 or write to Box 240009 Montgomery, AL 36124-0009.

BRANSON, MO CONDO - sleeps six. Stay 3 nights, 4th free or 5 nights, 2 free. Free coffee, tea, and cocoa. \$100.00 daily. Register for free return trip. Call early for reservations 662-746-4632.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Eastwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751. Call 601-887-4404.

TRACE RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a full-time minister of youth. Send resume to TRBC, P.O. Box 2726, Ridgeland, MS 39158.

JANITORIAL/MAINTENANCE WORKER NEEDED. 30-40 hours per week for SW JXN Baptist Church call 601-372-6154 or send work history & references to Personnel Committee, 4622 Raymond Road, Jackson, MS 39212.

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AAEO goals met

East Columbia Church, Columbia, held a mission banquet and study to raise money for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The goal was \$1,500. Total raised was \$5,529. O. J. Seals is pastor.

New Hope Church, Starkville, exceeded its goal for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Eddie Painter is pastor.



Valentine, Springstead, and Caldwell

The Board of Ministerial Education, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, awarded Michael Springstead, a student at William Carey College, with a scholarship. A native of Caledonia, Springstead is a church music major. Pictured (from left) are Milfred Valentine, dean of the Winters School of Music; Springstead; and Daniel Caldwell, dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies and Board of Ministerial Education member.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board of Ministerial Education awarded D. Clayton Norwood, a senior religion major at William Carey College, the Ernest Pinson Scholarship for academic achievement. A native of Pelahatchie, Norwood will graduate from Carey in May and plans to attend seminary in the fall. Pictured (from left) are Bennie Crockett, professor of religion in the Cooper School of Missions; Daniel Caldwell, dean of the Cooper School of Missions; Norwood; and Daniel Browning, professor of religion.



Crockett, Caldwell, Norwood, and Browning

The William Carey College School of Nursing will celebrate National Nurses' Week, Friday, May 5, at noon in the Wilkes Dining Hall located on the Hattiesburg campus. Outstanding School of Nursing alumni will be recognized. Make reservations by April 28 by calling 601-582-6147 or 1-800-962-5991, ext. 147, or email: mpayne@wmcarey.edu. The cost is \$10 per person and can be paid at the door.

HOMECOMINGS

Wake Forest, Sturgis: April 23; 10 a.m.; dinner following morning service with the Buckner Family singing at 1 p.m.; Danny Cheatman, speaker; Lynn Rodrique, pastor.

Mt. Gilead, Blue Springs: April 30; 10 a.m., McMullens of New Albany, guest singers; Johnny McCullough, pastor, will speak at 11 a.m. service; dinner in fellowship hall at noon.

Silver Springs, Osyka: April 30; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m.; Larry Sweat, guest speaker; covered dish at noon in fellowship hall; singing service with Shelly and Irene Johnston, 1:30 p.m.

New Prospect, Oxford: April 30; 10 a.m., covered dish dinner in fellowship hall; and afternoon singing; Jerry Moore, pastor.

Easter services

Easter musical/drama will be presented at Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa, by the sanctuary choir and drama team, April 16 at 6 p.m., and April 21 at 7 p.m. The presentation will be under the direction of Jim McEachern, minister of music and youth. Greg Johnston is pastor.

His Love is Alive will be presented by the sanctuary choir, youth choir, children's choir, and drama team at Indian Springs Church, Laurel. The presentation will be at 7 p.m., April 21, 22, and 23.

The adult choir at Wesson Church, Wesson, will present **The Day He Wore My Crown**, April 20, 21, and 23, at 7 p.m. The Lord's Supper will be served during the cantata on Sunday, April 23.

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Amaziah, Union: April 23-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Bill Bozeman, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Andy Roe, Memphis, Tenn., music; Leonard D. Howell, pastor.

East Moss Point, Moss Point: April 28-30; homecoming; Fri., 7 p.m., John C. Hilbun and James Hess; Sat., 7 p.m., Charles Mitchell and Jimmie Little; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon, Paul H. Leber and Joe Robinson; Alva Ray McCorkle, pastor.

Mt. Vernon, Newton: May 4-6; 7 p.m. nightly; Danny Lanier, evangelist; Steve Pouncey, pastor.

Chunky (Newton): April 30-May 4; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Meridian, evangelist; Gary Thorne, Chunky, music; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

Utica, Utica: May 5-7; Bruce Gill, evangelist; Rick Greene, music; John Ed Snell, pastor.

West End, Louisville: April 30-May 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Junior Davis, Sturgis, evangelist; Ken Carter, Louisville, music; Arnold Davis Sr., pastor.

New Hope, Starkville: April 30-May 5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Tracy

Hipps, Columbus, evangelist; Jerome Key, music; Eddie Painter, pastor.

Neely, New Albany: April 30-May 5; 7 p.m. nightly; Bible Conference, May 1 and 2, 9 a.m. each morning; Harvey

Reeves, evangelist; Kenny Adair, pastor.

Glade, Laurel: April 30-May 3; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; Mike Thompson, pastor.

REVIVAL DATES

Mad About You

April 28-29, 2000

Guest Speaker

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D. Christian Marriage and Family Counselor also host of Life Matters on WHJT Alive 93.5 and writer of The Baptist Record's column LifeAnswers

Mail this form, including check for \$5.00 per person (\$7.50 after April 24) payable to Ridgecrest Baptist Church to:
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PROTECTING RIGHTS

Editor:

The caption (in a recent article in *The Clarion-Ledger*), "Adoptions best decided on case-by-case basis" for American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) lawyer David Ingebreetsen's opinion on gay adoption sounds good but is deceiving. Last year the ACLU Gay and Lesbian Task Force and its New York lawyers took on two Mississippi child custody cases. Their legal clout was thrown against parents who were already beaten down by legal expenses. In one case, they represented a gay father in California in an effort to take a child from a Mississippi mother. In the second case, they persuaded a judge to take children away from a father and give them to a gay mother and her girl friend. The ACLU Gay and Lesbian Task Force has many connections and a multi-million-dollar war chest. There are few adoption agencies with the resources to oppose them. For fair case-by-case decisions, there needs to be an ACLU Straight Folks Task Force to protect the rights of those abused by the ACLU-GLTF.

David T. Dockery
Clinton

HENSLEY COMMENDED

Editor:

I read with appreciation the Guest Opinion by J. Clark Hensley in the March 30 issue. As he nears his eighty-eighth birthday, Hensley continues to behave in the manner that has characterized his entire ministry. He is an encourager, and a cheerleader for fellow servants and for needy others. While he does not seek recognition for his own outstanding efforts in many varied areas, he unfailingly casts the spotlight on worthy acts of others.

For the many decades that this Christian gentleman has worked in our state, he has always conducted himself with the highest personal and professional standards. He is one with whom you can disagree — in a Christian spirit — and who remains a friend. He epitomizes the commandment to "love thy neighbor as thyself."

This humble man has been used of the Lord because he is a willing servant. From his boyhood days as a preacher at age 13, he continues to serve Christ faithfully through his daily life, the written word, varied outreach/educational projects, and continual devotion to family and friends.

God is good to allow Mississippi Baptists to claim Clark Hensley as our very own.
Barbara Hamilton
Hattiesburg

HOMEcoming PLANNED

Editor:

First Church, Leakesville is planning a homecoming June 25. The history committee, are trying to locate addresses and/or telephone numbers of former pastors, music/youth directors, and members so we can invite them to join us in our anniversary.

We want to extend a special invitation to all who have ever been a part of our church family. We would like pictures of families or letters citing any memorable event while with our church. We will return any pictures if requested.

Please call the church at (601) 394-5124 or (601) 394-2686 or write to First Baptist Church, History Committee, P. O. Box 508, Leakesville, MS 39451 as soon as possible.

Aliece Williams
FBC History Committee
Leakesville

BIVO MEETING SET

Editor:

The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio has the privilege and honor of hosting the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist National Bivocational Conference this year. Friendship

Baptist Church at 8580 Cheviot Road in Cincinnati will house the conference April 27-29. For more information, please contact Steve Hopkins at (614) 258-8491 ext. 19.

Jack Kwok, exec. director
State Convention of Baptists
in Ohio
Columbus, Ohio

'TALENTS' MULTIPLIED

Editor:

At Parkway Church in Hernando, no one is hiding their talent. Six weeks ago, in accordance with the Scripture in Matt. 25:14-30, one Parkway couple presented each member with an envelope containing a certain amount of money. Some received \$5, some \$3, and some \$2. The congregation was challenged to take the money, invest it in whatever talent they possessed, and double it for Parkway's Together We Build program.

Right away the people got to work. All kinds of baked goods were made and sold. Pictures were painted, storybooks were written, and novelty vests were sewn. Bible covers were made, along with Christian bookmarks, greeting cards, potpourri, and beanbag foot warmers. One couple gathered pecans from the yard, and shelled and packaged them for sale. The GAs pooled their money and prepared a spaghetti supper for the entire church. The youth worked hard and had a very successful car wash.

Many innovative ideas were used to double this congregation's "talents." To date they have raised over \$6,000 from this one project, and it keeps coming in. Hallelujah!

Marianne Gordon, secretary
Parkway Church, Hernando

THANKS FOR LEGACY

Editor:

The old song says "Thanks for the memories." I want to take liberty and change that to say, "Thanks for the legacy." For thirty-six years James L. Travis faithfully taught Bible and Bible-related classes at Blue Mountain College. I want to thank him for giving to me and many like me a deep love for the Word of God, for the local church, and for the

souls of people. He took seriously the words of Paul to Timothy, "And the things that thou has heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). As a pastor, it is my desire to continue following that example and faithfully preach the Word of God. Thank you, Dr. Travis, and may God continue to bless your preaching and teaching ministry.

Neil Gant, pastor
Pleasant Grove Church
Gore Springs

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS

Editor:

I am writing in response to a disturbing letter in the March 30 edition of *The Baptist Record* entitled "Responsible Stewards." Our brother mentioned that Southern Baptists are paying administrators in our national convention \$250,000 a year. We recently held a stewardship revival at our church and it proved to be very beneficial not only to the church as a whole but to individuals as well. We got the opportunity to review our Cooperative Program (CP) giving history for the past five years. We were able to see on paper where every dollar of our CP dollars were allotted. Information sent to all Southern Baptist churches tells us that the 1999-2000 SBC CP budget is \$159,583,743. Only 4.08% of that total went to support Facilitating Ministries. Only 2.85% of that 4.08% (which calculates to be approx. \$186,000) went to pay for the SBC Operating Budget. I was encouraged to see that a gigantic 72.79% was allotted to World Missions Ministries. It seems to me, after a careful look at the figures for our state and national convention, that we are being very responsible stewards of the money with which God has put us in trust. I would like to encourage every church to hold a stewardship revival. I believe it would be beneficial to pastors and lay persons to actually take a look at the role your church has played by giving to God through CP.

Matthew Brown, pastor
Biggersville First Church
Rienzi



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

WITNESSING



THROUGH MEDIA

RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH

MADISON, MS

MAY 5-6, 2000

AWARDS BANQUET

FRIDAY MAY 5

6:00-7:00 P.M. (REGISTRATION)
7:00-9:00 P.M. (BANQUET)

WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY MAY 6

8:00 A.M. - 3:15 P.M.

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1 Corinthians 15:1-58

By Neel Grantham

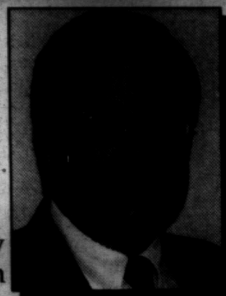
Hope is a word that has different meanings for different people. As a child playing Little League baseball, I wasn't known for being a great hitter. Yet, I walked to the batter's box most of the time "hoping" to get a hit. Children wake up on Christmas Day "hoping" to get the presents they wanted. These and other examples of hope are more like wishful thinking.

It makes me sad when I hear people say things like, "I hope I'm going to heaven." In what do they base their hope? If it is in anything or anyone other than Jesus, then for them it is wishful thinking. The hope we

see in the New Testament is much more. It means a confident expectation. This is because it is found in Jesus, the rock of our salvation.

This chapter has been called the resurrection chapter. Paul goes into much detail teaching the Corinthian church not only about Christ's resurrection, but the resurrection of the believer. We accept by faith that God raised Jesus from the dead. By faith we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior. In addition, by faith we trust that we, too, will be raised.

Joyful affirmation (vv. 20-23). Paul states emphatically that Christ has been raised



Grantham

from the dead. He is the first raised to eternal life. Others had been raised from the dead, such as Lazarus, but only to die again. Because of Adam, all are doomed to die. Through Jesus, all can come to life, life everlasting.

To the Ephesians Paul wrote, "And you ... who were dead in trespasses and sins ..." (Eph. 2:1). We were all in that situation, were we not? He goes on to say in verse four and following, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love where with he loved us; even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are saved.)" We have been made alive with Christ. The language Paul uses in verse six indicates everything has already been done for us. "Hath raised us up together, and made us sit

together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus," sounds like a done deal. This is why our hope is not wishful thinking.

Glorious victory (vv. 24-27). It has been said we have two certainties in life, taxes and death. Having survived another April 15th, we know the two are not directly related. While you may feel defeated thinking about taxes, you don't have to feel the same about death. The fact is, according to verse 26, the last enemy to be destroyed is death. According to verse 57, that battle has been won through Jesus.

Had Jesus not been raised from the dead, our preaching, faith, and hope are useless and in vain. Paul expounded on this in vv. 12-19. However, since Jesus is alive, our hope is not wishful thinking.

Marvelous prospect (vv. 35-44). The body we will have in the resurrection will be different

than our earthly bodies. I know some are heaving a sigh of relief. The fact is, our new body will be a spiritual body. The corrupt becomes incorruptible. The dishonorable becomes glorious. The weak becomes strong and the natural becomes spiritual.

While we may always dread tax seasons, we need not dread death. Our natural body must be laid down to take up our glorified body. With the same faith we accept Christ, we can believe in the resurrection. We may or may not die before Jesus comes again. But if we do, we need not fear. Our hope is in the resurrected Lord, not fairy tales or wishful thinking.

It is not wishful thinking to say you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. It is a spiritual reality. This, the heart of the Gospel, is our confident hope.

Grantham is pastor of Pineview Church, Clinton.

LIFE AND WORK

Great day in the morning

John 20:1-8, 11-21

By Matt Loving

How has Christ's death and resurrection affected your life? Think about it for a moment if you will. For many Christians, Easter means little more than a holiday and a time for us to reflect on a story foundational to our faith. We have allowed ourselves to trivialize the events to where the power of Jesus' resurrection has no effect on our daily lives.

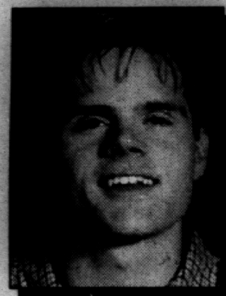
Week after week we go to "church" looking for Jesus to be there and many times walk away not experiencing worship as God intended. Even though many of us live as "good people," we still feel a void because we think that God only can be

involved with certain areas of life and not others.

On the morning of the resurrection, Mary went seeking where she thought Jesus would be and should be. There is much for us to learn from her experience on the morning of the resurrection.

An empty tomb (vv 1-9). Mary arrived early on the first day of the week at Jesus' tomb and to her dismay found it empty. Immediately she went, probably dazed and confused, to Simon Peter and another disciple to show them the tomb and see what they thought.

She must have felt that some of those who spent all of their time with him would know



Loving

what was happening. Yet in verse 9 we find that they did not fully perceive what had happened.

As individuals, we certainly should seek out wise counsel but not prior to seeking out our Heavenly Father for direction.

A living Lord (vv 11-18). In these verses we find that Mary encounters the living Lord and yet doesn't recognize him. Jesus pointblank asked her for whom she was looking.

Are we truly seeking God, allowing him to reveal himself to us as he is? Or, are we limiting what God can do in our lives because we seek him with an agenda?

When Jesus called Mary by name in verse 16 she knew it was him. She had to be broken-hearted before she could clearly hear and see Jesus as he wanted to reveal himself to her.

A great commission (vv 19,21). Mary's response to Jesus was one of worship and of service as he commanded. She experienced worship as she cried out to Jesus as the "Rabboni," or teacher, recognizing that he alone has all the answers and the victory over sin and death.

As a result of encountering Jesus, it was a natural outflow to share her experience with others just as Jesus commanded her to do. She experienced service by going and proclaiming that she had "seen the Lord!"

Her openness to the Lord and willingness to serve him prepared the hearts of the disciples for the events that occurred in these latter verses.

In contrast to Mary's experience, all of the disciples present at Jesus' revelation immediately knew it was him and were therefore ready for his commission in verse 21.

Hopefully, Mary's example will make you prayerfully consider whether or not you relate to God with an open heart. Are you ready to hear and see him in every way as he would reveal himself to you? Do you not seek true communion with him and genuine service for him?

Oswald Chambers once wrote that the "greatest need is a readiness to face Jesus Christ at any and every turn ... the greatest need is not facing our beliefs or doctrines, or even facing the question of whether or not we are of any use to him, but the need is to face Him ... If we are going to be ready for Jesus Christ, we have to stop being religious ... We must be spiritually real ... and even ignore the finest saint on earth if he blocks your sight of Jesus Christ." (My Utmost For His Highest, March 29 Devotional).

Loving is minister of youth at Oak Hill Church, Poplarville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Making disciples

Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

By Keith Smyser

Our youth group, church, and community were shocked and saddened by the sudden illness and death of a 16-year-old woman. The death was a difficult experience for her family and friends. However, we were not a people without hope! The good news was, 22 short months before her death she had given her life to Christ!

Christ died and defeated death by his resurrection some 2000 years ago. Christ died for this young woman and she will now live in heaven with him forever!

As we trust the risen Christ for salvation, we should desire to see others come to a personal saving relationship with

Christ. Who will help disciple these new Christians?

Incredible announcement (vv. 1-7). The angel had the privilege of making an incredible announcement regarding Jesus! The words the angel shared, "he has risen, just as he said," in verse six are a powerful reminder of words Jesus spoke concerning himself. Jesus spoke both of the coming cross and of his resurrection. (See Matt. 12:40, 16:21, 17:23) The women were returning to finish preparing Jesus' body for burial (Luke 23:54-56; 24:1) and were startled by the angel and amazed at the angel's message!

Jesus promised the disciples he would rise again! Jesus' fol-



Smyser

lowers were so absorbed in their grief they had forgotten his promise.

The angel's directions included telling the disciples the good news and going to Galilee to meet Jesus. Jesus had told them in Matthew 26:32 that he would meet the disciples in Galilee after he arose! Galilee is where much of Jesus' public ministry took place. The Son of God keeps his promises!

Joyful meeting (vv. 8-10). Can you imagine the sheer joy of the women as they literally ran to tell the disciples? The emotions of the women that Easter morning changed from fear in verse five to joy in verse eight! The joy was heightened as they met Jesus on their way to tell the disciples.

The women were going in obedience to find the disciples. "When you follow the path of obedience, you will meet Jesus! The good shepherd (Jesus) goes

before the sheep and prepares the way for them (John 10:4)." (Warren Wiersbe Commentary) Jesus goes before us and as we are obedient to him, we encounter him in the midst of our obedience.

The women did not simply greet Jesus or hug him, scripture is clear "they worshipped him!" Only the Son of God is worthy of worship! We can see Jesus' divinity affirmed by their actions.

Exciting commission (vv. 16-20). Jesus has all authority, he commands us to share the gospel to all nations, the Lord desires that all become his disciples, and he promises to be with us always! What more encouragement and direction do we need?

The "Great Commission" is a command to lead people to Christ. However, the command to make disciples goes much further! We are to teach, instruct, and disciple new believers in Christ. We are not to let them struggle alone.

Jesus through the person of the Holy Spirit, draws people unto himself but promises believers the power to help disciple new Christians.

I mentioned at the beginning of this lesson the young woman who died at an early age. What was exciting to learn was how much she had grown spiritually in the last two months before her death. She was being disciplined while attending Sunday School, worship, and youth discipleship meetings!

This young woman's short life illustrated well how one comes to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. Her maturing in Christ then led her to desire to see others come to know Christ!

Easter Sunday, the resurrection and making disciples, are a powerful combination of life changing events and lifestyles! Are you using Christ's resurrection power to "make disciples?"

Smyser is associate pastor of First Church, Starkville.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

JANUARY 1-31, 1999 MEMORIALS

Mrs. Jennie Shelton Green
Women's Bible Class, FBC-Hazlehurst

Mrs. Clara Roby Greff
Nettie Mai Lewis & Children

Louis F. Gregory
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Gregory

David Griffin
Mrs. Mary Bowlin & Family

Mrs. Coy Griffin
Mrs. Dot Griffin

Mr. Jimmy Griffith
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Ms. Maggie L. Mahaffey

Hubert Haaga
Mrs. Lucille H. Harris
Mrs. Claudine M. Stevens

Mr. L. M. Halbert
Bubba, Emily, Jenna, Baker, & Julie Herrington

Mrs. Mildred Hanvey
Women's Bible Class, FBC-Hazlehurst

Cissy Harper
Ruby Hales
Katherine Montgomery

Robert C. Harper
Frank & Elizabeth Pajerski

Mr. John B. Harrell
Mr. & Mrs. Hollis Harrell

Charles R. Harris
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L. Craig, Jr.

Jerry Harvey
Mr. & Mrs. Calvin E. Harvey

Aubrey Haryison
Mrs. Carmen D. Green

Vernon Hathcock
Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Minyard

Mrs. Hazel Hawthorne
Mrs. Tom Rice

Mrs. Minnie Hays
The HomeMakers Club-Valley Pk Ext

John Marvin Hearn
Mr. & Mrs. Max Holleyman

Mrs. Ethel Herndon
Mrs. Linda Williams

Mr. Elton Hickman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Irby Jr.

Mr. Kirby Higgason
Rodgers & Margaret Stevens

Miss Heather Higginbotham
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion

G. W. Hill
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Hill

Mr. James Holden
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Baham
Tinsley Baptist Church
Tom & Verna Burris
Mrs. Myrtis Burris

Ladell Holiday
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs

Mrs. Mary Alice Holiday
Mrs. Myrtice Cook

Henry Holifield
Ruth SSC, FBC-Hattiesburg
Alive Steen Simmons

Bidwell Hollingsworth
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bagley

Mr. & Mrs. C. D. Hollingsworth
Mr. G. B. Steele

Miss Christine Hollis
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Wells

Mary Gay Holloway
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges

Mary Elizabeth Perry Holmes
Ms. Perryolyn Pyle Hovas

Mrs. Thelma Holmes
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis L. McPhail
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Glen Polk

Bro. Oliver Hood
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Mrs. Margaret Hoth
Mrs. Ray A. Whelan Jr.

Paul T. Huddleston
Stanton Baptist Church

Mrs. Flora M. Hughes
Mr. William H. Box
Craft Crowsell
Mississippi Symphony Orchestra
Mississippi Museum of Art

Mr. & Mrs. Don Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. O. Edward Wall
Mr. & Mrs. William D. Mann

Mrs. Vivian Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph Spears & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Spears & Family
Sally Hughey
Mr. & Mrs. Odie Smith Jr.

Mrs. Floy Humphreys
Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Griffith

Mr. & Mrs. Bryant Ingram
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Ingram

Marietta James
Ms. Mary Y. Womack

Cora Ivy Ingram Janusz
Mrs. Anna W. Rounsaville & Family

Mrs. Ruth Jennings
Ms. Ann J. Thaggard

Mrs. Mahala Jernigan
Shuqualak Baptist Church

Caleb Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bagley

Mrs. Ruth Vesey Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. George H. Crawford Jr.

Mrs. W. M. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Billy B. Rawls

Dr. Roland W. Jones, III
Bill & Deena Barbee

Miss Maggie Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Bruton
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Dunaway
Mr. Bill Hite
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hollingsworth

Charles Kelly
Joseph Henry Frye & Family
Mr. Loanie Sims

Mary Lou Kendrick
Shuqualak Baptist Church

Mr. Bob Key
Mrs. Anna C. Johnson

Anse James King
T.E.L. SSC, Springfield BC-Morton

Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil
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Joe Lee
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Mr. Peek Lewis
The Manning Family
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil

L. David Ligon, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Creed

Margaret McCormack Liles
Mr. & Mrs. Buford Berry

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The Baptist Children's Village
c/o Myra Hosey
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Bibliocipher

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OWZ XAN UCPNE WO
EBK BE MNCXA; FHX XAN
PBOX WO PWM BE
NXNZKCS SBON XAZWH-
PA DNEHE LAZBEX WHZ
SWZM.

ZWGCKE EBY: XUNKXT-
XAZNN

Clue: Y = X

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Amos Eight: Eleven.

ABP to open Washington bureau

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — Associated Baptist Press (ABP) plans to open a news bureau in Washington, D.C., as soon as funds become available. The ABP bureau would take over a role filled for 40 years by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which recently lost its press credentials to cover the capital. By representing an independent news agency, the ABP bureau would be able to reapply for the press credentials lost seven months ago.

Greg Warner, executive editor of the 10-year-old national news service in Jacksonville, Fla., said the bureau likely will not open until ABP raises the funding, estimated at \$75,000 for the first year. ABP is a subscription-based news service that is used primarily by Baptist state newspapers and religion writers at secular newspapers and magazines across the nation. In addition to subscription fees, it also receives operating support from organizations, churches, and individual donors.

CP giving boosts Alaska church's attitude

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP) — Whether it's supporting a new Russian congregation or ministering to native Alaskans, when it comes to spreading the gospel, First Church members in Anchorage, Alaska, consider themselves on mission 24 hours a day.

Marvin Owen, who also serves as the president of the Alaska Baptist Convention, said his church is a "proud supporter of Southern Baptist mission work through the Cooperative Program."

"It's very important for us to keep missions on the forefront of our ministries," Owen said. "It's a huge part of our heritage."

The heritage of the Cooperative Program (CP) is at the forefront of many Southern Baptist churches during April, with a special observance designated as Cooperative Program Sunday to highlight CP giving and how Southern Baptists witness to the world about Jesus Christ.

First Church, Anchorage, was the first Southern Baptist Church planted in Alaska. The church was organized on Sept. 19, 1943, with 17 members, including two civilians and 15 soldiers.

First Church has withstood the devastation of fires and earthquakes to become an important part of Southern Baptist ministry in the state. Now located in downtown Anchorage, the church boasts more than 700 members. The congregation has planted eight new churches in the state and supports three missions, including one in Nome.

The church recently started an international ministry and is reaching out to the Anchorage community through a disaster relief center.

"Missions is important to us and that's why this church is a solid Cooperative Program church," Owen said. "We continually keep that in front of the people. We tell them that we are just a part of a much bigger ministry."

Even the children and teenagers at First

What about that mission church in Nome, just 60 miles from the Russian border? Even its members give to the Cooperative Program, Owen reported.

"They may be the only Baptist church in the country where every church member tithes," he continued. "Of course, there are only five families, but they have 100% tithers."

Owen said it's a challenge to maintain awareness of the Cooperative Program in Anchorage because it is a transitional community. "We have a lot of military and oil company people here," Owen said, "and we are reaching a lot of new people, people who've never been to a Baptist church."

As a result, the church sponsors a class called, "How

we work together as Baptists." The class teaches new members what it means to be a Southern Baptist.

Alaskan Baptists are excited about mission opportunities, even though they are isolated from their fellow Baptists in the continental states, Owen said.

"We can all be a part of missions," Owen said. "We can all be a part of sharing Christ around the world. That's what it's all about."

For more information on the Cooperative Program in Mississippi, contact David Michel, associate executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, Ms 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3231 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: dmichel@mbcb.org.

PARTNERS IN THE HARVEST

Matthew 9:37-38

Church have gotten involved in "Partners in the Harvest," the nationwide campaign marking the CP's 75 anniversary. "We include everyone," Owen said. "No one is too young to learn about how we reach people for Christ through the Cooperative Program."

The congregation backs up their talk with action. First Church leads the state in Cooperative Program giving. In addition to allocating 10% of its budget to CP, the church gives 2% of its budget to associational missions. This year the church also exceeded its Lottie Moon goal of \$6,500.

The church sends \$100 a month to a struggling Baptist congregation in China. "They meet in a house," Owen said. "And they're trying to raise money to build a church. Hopefully, we are going to be sending a team to help them."

